

REMARKS

This Submission is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 in connection with the enclosed Request for Continuing Examination (RCE). The enclosed RCE is responsive to the Final Office Action dated January 7, 2009, for which a reply is due by May 9, 2009 with the enclosed one-month extension of time. Applicants would first like to thank the Examiner for discussing the case on April 9, 2009, and for considering the Applicants suggested amendment during the teleconference.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1 – 2 and 5 – 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,415,527 issued to Rasen et al. (“Räsänen”). In addition, claims 3 – 4 and 7 – 8 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Räsänen in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,417,661 issued to Asman (“Asman”). Claim 1 is being amended and new claims 9 – 14 are being added. Applicants submit that no new matter is being added. Claims 1 – 14 remain pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Applicants are amending claim 1 to clarify that the recited “heat transfer element” is “rotated within and with the drum.” Additionally, claim 1 has been further amended to clarify that the “heat transfer element comprises a support structure, a uniform packet of several longitudinal pipes fixedly connected to said support structure, the longitudinal pipes being arranged in an axial direction of the cylindrical rotatable drum”

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner contends that Räsänen discloses a “heat transfer element 17.” However, as shown in FIG. 1, which has been partially reproduced below and highlighted for convenience, the reference numeral “17” is actually the “steam header 17.” (see also Räsänen, col. 4, ll. 7 – 10).

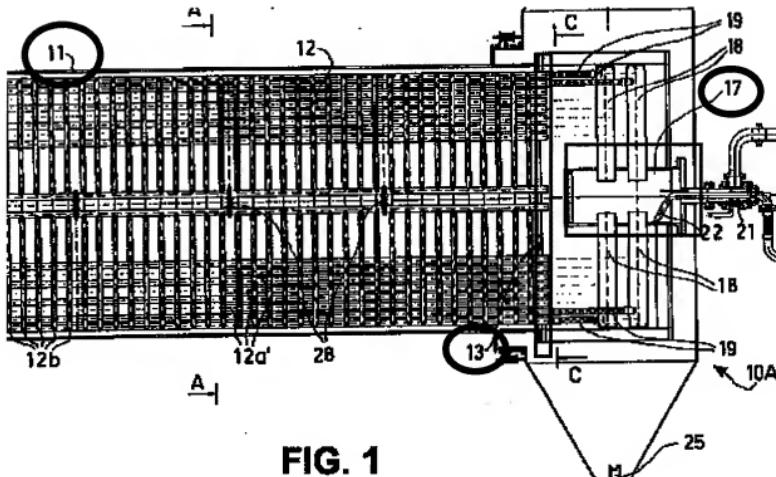


FIG. 1

Even a cursory review of FIG. 1 shows the steam header 17 as being completely outside the drum 11. In fact, Räsänen specifically states that “[t]he steam header 17 has been fitted in the axial direction outside the end 13 . . .,” where the drum 11 is fitted with ends 13,14 (Räsänen, col. 4, ll. 10 – 11)(*emphasis added*). Thus, the steam header 17 in Räsänen cannot be equated with the recited “heat transfer element” at least by virtue of the fact that the steam header 17 is clearly outside the drum and the claimed “heat transfer element” is recited as being within the drum.

The Examiner has further taken the position that Räsänen discloses a “support structure 13, 14.” However, as shown in FIG. 1, the reference numerals “13, 14” correspond to the drum ends 13, 14 (Räsänen, col. 4, ll. 17 – 25). This is significant because claim 1 has been further amended to more clearly recite that the “heat transfer element comprises a support structure . . .” Since the “heat transfer element” is “within” the drum, and since the “heat transfer element” includes the

“support structure,” it follows that the recited “support structure” is necessarily also within the drum. In contrast, the drum ends 13, 14 cannot within the drum and, therefore, cannot be equated with the recited “support structure.”

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Räsänen, taken alone or in combination with Asman, fails to teach or suggest the arrangement of the claim 1 as amended. Applicants further submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest the arrangement of new independent claim 9. The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of depending on allowable base claims.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance and early action is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned. No additional fees are believed due for this Reply. However, in the event a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Ref. # 101908.56491US).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 7, 2009



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